December 10, 1976

Mr. Wayne Carson
Assistant General Counsel
Prentice-Hall
Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 07632

Dear Mr. Carson:

I would like to be able to write you in more detail but tendon trouble limits me to the use of one hand.

There seems to have been some confusion between the time I wrote and the time you spoke with Mr. Lesar. You asked him for the evidence. I said I would make available whatever he approves my making available.

You do not know Lane as you will and as I have. This requires of me that in my efforts to inform you I be guided by counsel. I am willing to do whatever he advises. I recognize that you had no reason to doubt the original representations made to you. This is why I used as a sample the Newsday editor's letter to New Times.

If you have people in Washington to whom you can delegate this matter, when I am there I will take time to see them. I will see you or anyone representing you here. I will discuss this with you by telephone provided we both have tapes of the conversation. This precaution is not lack of trust in you. It comes from long knowledge of Lane and his methods. I can refer you to others who are experts who will tell you he has built his career this way. I have told you I would confront him on fact. I am trying in every way I can, short of eliminating my protection in the event this does go to court, to be as fair and as informative as possible.

I gather from what Mr. Lesar said that you asked him about copyright infringement. That is not the only question, as I am sure my letters state. However, since I wrote that he has represented his duplicating part of my copyrighted work as his and entirely original work by him alone.

It simply is beyond my capacity to copy all I have and send it to you. Moreover, as I am certain you know better than I, were I even to indicate it and were this to go to court, I would be preparing you for discovery. I am quite willing to inform you to the degree necessary to protect both of us but not more. I do not think more is necessary.

If I did not tell you, I do tell you now that you are not alone in being imposed on. It is my belief that there will be many regrets. As you may learn in part from Mort Sahl's book. They were once the closest friends.

In my opinion, you are taken in by an able, persuasive, unscrupulous man if in fact he is not a psychopath.

If you want to inform yourself that is possible. If you do not you are on notice. I do hope you will do what I regard as simple and easy and avoid the alternative, costly unpleasantness.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg